

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES IN ZHITOMIR, UKSSR

1. SUMMARY: DURING ONE DAY VISIT TO ZHITOMIR, MEMBER KIEV ADVANCE PARTY (KAP) MADE EARLY MORNING VISIT TO CITY OPEN MARKET. MARKET WAS ABOUT HALF OCCUPIED WITH VEGETABLE BUYERS AND SELLERS WITH ADEQUATE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE. MEAT STALLS DISPLAYED VERY LIMITED SUPPLIES OF PORK, BUT ADEQUATE BEEF. NO LIMITATION ON PURCHASES WERE NOTED. THERE WERE ONLY MODERATE NUMBERS OF CUSTOMERS FOR MEAT. NEARBY STORE HAD ADEQUATE BREAD SUPPLIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 0800 A.M. KAPOFF MADE SURVEY OF EXTENSIVE OPEN MARKET NEAR CENTER OF ZHITOMIR, 125 KM WEST OF KIEV. VEGTABLE/FRUIT AREA WAS ABOUT HALF OCCUPIED BY SELLERS AND BUYERS. SELLERS OFFERED, AMONG OTHER ITEMS, SMALL QUANTITIES OF DILL, TOMATOES, STRAWBERRIES, CARROTS, CHERRIES AND LARGER QUANTITIES OF PLUMS AND GREEN AND RED APPLES. QUALITY OF VEGETABLES/FRUITS UNIFORMLY GOOD.

3. MEAT STALLS OFFERED ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF BEEF WITH FEW TAKERS. STORAGE ROOM CONTAINED SEVERAL SIDES OF BEEF, EASILY ENOUGH FOR DAY'S SUPPLY GIVEN LOW DEMAND. PORT COUNTERS HAD LONGEST LINES (ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORTY CUSTOMERS) AND VERY LIMITED SUPPLY, PRIVED AT R 3.50 AND

R 3.00 FOR FAT. ONE KOLKHOZNIK OFFERED 6 KILOS OF VEAL AT R. 5.00
WITH NO TAKERS. ONLY FIVE CHICKENS WERE SEEN ON SALE, PRICES FROM
R 4-6.00. OTHER ITEMS WERE RABBITS AT R 4-9.00 AND ONE SMOKED
COW'S HEAD AT R 3.00. ONLY THREE DOZEN EGGS SEEN, AT R 1.50
-1.40. THERE WERE ONLY MODERATE NUMBERS OF CUSTOMERS FOR MEAT,
POSSIBLY BECAUSE INFORMANTS AT GATE DOUBTED ANY MEAT MIGHT BE
AVAILABLE IN MARKET.

4. BREAD SUPPLIES, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE, WERE ADEQUATE IN SINGLE
NEARBY STORE CHECKED.

5. LOCAL RESTAURANT WAITRESS INFORMED KAPOFF CITY HAS TWO FISH DAYS.
(ON TUESDAY EVENING, SEPT 22), SHE OFFERED MENU OF FISH "SAUSAGE".
FISH "CUTLET" AND FISH "BIFSHTEK", BUT THEN CONFIDED THAT REAL
BEEF WAS AVAILABLE TO FOREIGNERS AND SERVED IT.
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